

## **Public Meeting: Louisville**

About seventy people attended: a good cross-section of the arts community, including ethnic and racial diversity, and a few people from the general public.

### **SMALL GROUPS**

#### **1. Lifelong education in the arts**

- to broaden the age, make our education lifelong, inclusive of family education
- use alternative or broad range media to promote arts including among youth
- use Art's employment program
- expand teacher arts education and the university co-op intern programs
- artists learn to teach, teachers learn art
- senior citizen art education
- celebratory and participatory public art events

#### **2. Efficient statewide delivery of arts programs and services**

Top three ideas:

- communications
  - e-mail, newsletters, web sites with links to more programs and services outside of KAC; clearinghouse for everything: marketing
- circuit riders
  - more circuit riders and more support for circuit riders
- strategic partnerships
  - multicultural support, more foreign language, include immigrant community

Comments:

- regional showcases:
  - produce shows from various regions of the state; broadcast statewide on public radio and KET
- establish good relationships: strategic partnerships with arts and non-arts organizations
- leverage resources
- strengthening the performing arts network
- seed money for block booking

#### **3. Artists live and work in a supportive environment**

Top three ideas:

- artists' achievements are encouraged and recognized
- artists have knowledge and information necessary for success
- there is a sense of community among artists

Comments:

- struggle for emerging artists:
  - time
  - resources
  - gumption
  - money
- establish the equivalent of a fund for the arts for beginning artists and companies
  - define criteria for emerging artists and established artists

Program idea #1: provide ways to meet other artists outside of the usual ways

- meet-and-greets
- genre specific
- the example of LAVA house

Program idea # 2: mentoring program

- artists need to learn how to operate as a business
- learn how to treat each other as professionals
  - professional pay
  - organization
- -- business school for artists with scholarships
- -- conferences and meetings
- -- health plan for artists

Program idea #3: stop harassing artists on the street

#### 4. Arts as basic to life

Top ideas:

- KAC involvement in education
- KAC advocate for arts organizations
- media campaign: aggressive and shameless promotion of the arts
- arts advisory positions

Comments:

Issues:

- input from art leader's: other countries and communities
- art's economic impact
- educating users, businesses
- make the case to elected officials
  - art policy
  - art advisory positions
- sustained funding throughout the metro area and programming
- racial and ethnic divides
- inclusiveness:

- social issues
- education
- money
- role models

Ideas:

- increased KAC involvement in education
- funds directed toward media campaign
- KAC more active as advocate for art groups
- workshops
- solicit direct involvement from corporations
- aggressive and competitive advertising campaign on education programs for promoting the arts
- loaned execs for one year

5. Public policy is favorable to the arts

Top three ideas:

- establish an equivalent of the funding for the arts for beginning artists and emerging artists and companies
- develop mutual support between businesses and artists
  - artists treating each other with mutual respect
  - pay each other what we're worth
  - artists need to learn to operate as business
  - professional development training
  - support local businesses that do support arts
  - scholarships to attend conferences
- stop harassment of artists on streets

Comments:

- programs on legislative awareness
- emphasis on small local groups in consortium
- sharing information, and about how information is shared
- utilize chamber of commerce; need business support
- co-op buying power
- ideas in Richard Florida's book on the relation between economic development and the arts
- voting public may see the importance of arts
- be more inclusive of cultural diversity
- develop more multicultural activities, develop a pool of money designated to do this
- evaluate arts funding in light of Louisville merger
- rewrite the laws regarding tourism dollars as established by current legislation
- establish a municipal department of cultural affairs
- cultural center on Main and Fourth streets, examination of the arts vs. entertainment
- what can a 501 3c do regarding lobbying?

- new dollars for neighborhood arts
- influence local legislation and merger
- be an economic change agent
- Louisville is close to being in arts city

#### WHOLE GROUP:

#### KAC Goal #1: Lifelong education in the arts

Relates to KLPTRC goal of lifelong education:

- excellent lifelong learning
- helps with intergenerational work
- all people should have opportunities to create art

Relates to KLTPRC goal of safe and caring communities:

- current arts activity decreases violence; the healthier the arts, the less violence
- family success: parents work with children

General comments:

- early education, and adult education in the arts so that adults get children into the arts
- art programs on each TV station
- facilities accessible to elderly and children
- advocate among school administrators
- know your politicians and lobby
- increased grass-roots involvement
- family involvement
- programs should be culturally relevant, the cultural landscape in Louisville has changed
- more networking among arts education
- look at granting programs to include a broader spectrum in terms of age
- KAC: should be at least one art program in all areas, including rural

#### KAC Goal #2 Efficient statewide delivery

What KAC can do:

- recognize and provide funds for projects that are collaborative
- information directory, basic resource directory, for small groups
- web site for finding information on individual artists
- database for loaned executives for marketing and fundraising for arts groups
- KAC: "what you are doing is working;" program directors are responsive
- KDE needs to provide certification for dance educators, so we don't have to go out of state
- create arts shareware, using state and local money
- get arts written into consolidated plans in schools

What organizations can do:

- have programs within organizations that involve the arts
- get corporate funding
- have paid artists at programs
- training after school
- collaboration among arts groups is the key

### KAC Goal # 3: Artists live and work in a supportive environment

What individuals can do:

- artists respect each other, the community follows
- make friends with other small-business owners, artists are seen as business owners

What KAC can do:

- get local government to support arts groups
- encourage municipalities to have cultural arts departments
- work with developers on studio spaces for artists
- help artists afford health insurance, and artists work together
- advocate and work with local government to provide working spaces for artists
- reach out to disabled; develop arts venues for special needs; support deaf and blind accessible projects
- work with local government for public arts
- help form a collective artists that can be insured

### KAC GOAL #4: The role of the arts is valued:

Recommendations:

- art saves lives, mental health professionals should utilize artists
- all arts programs must be accessible to children elderly and disabled
- help children develop artistic confidence making them healthier
- use TV stations to show the arts

What organizations can do:

- have public places for people to do art, without being charged, arrested, fined
- Louisville Theatre Square could be a Public Art Place, once a week, with all of the community involved
- weekly and monthly program, for example, First Night throughout downtown, in which public is invited to do art
- senior citizens doing art with artists
- artists need to collaborate
- need to value our art and present art to the community, "toot our own horns"
- art on the Kentucky bridge
- art available to people regardless of socioeconomic level, immigrant status, neighborhoods

- artists support of community needs (example: art show at actors supported AIDS program )
- multicultural plan for the city of Louisville, state of Kentucky should develop a similar initiative
- connect the arts with the growth of the city
- organizations can establish group insurance programs
- organizations can expose art forms to members of the community that are new to the arts

What individuals can do:

- use art at every opportunity, show that art is in the fabric of our lives, as artists
- artists: let go and be yourselves

What KAC can do:

- identify the issue as racism and inequity
- dismantle the myth of the starving artists
- KAC needs to have a diverse aboard

KAC Goal #5: Public policy is favorable to the arts

What organizations can do:

- start with the basics, advocacy: K. C. A. holds workshops on public advocacy campaigns, and how to legislate for the arts
- get to know how schools function, for example, site-based councils
- connect with chambers of commerce to fund artists and to get advice, overcome the present gap between chambers and the arts

What KAC can do:

- encourage colleges to become more accessible to members of the community and artists
- form a repository of all statewide activities

What individuals can do:

- support Kentucky Citizens for the Arts
- artists can make sure the public representatives are invited to arts events
- use Art Works for Kentucky
- make the case for arts as an industry that generates the economy; make sure economic development studies get information about the arts
- must be fearless in reaching out to the funders and public officials, get public officials to arts forums
- public officials have to do more than lip service for the arts
- connect with the neighborhood associations and other grass-roots groups